

The Heart Line: Taking the Pulse

Covering Volunteerism and Service Throughout the Commonwealth

June 2010 Edition

Welcome

Welcome to the June edition of the Heart Line newsletter, a publication by the Kentucky Commission on Community Volunteerism and Service (KCCVS).

We know it's hot out there, so enjoy some time in the air conditioning reading about the 2009 Governor's Volunteer Award recipients and the A-Team AmeriCorps program.

Also, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions about any of our community service programs, such as AmeriCorps, the Governor's Volunteer Awards, the Volunteer Insurance Program, or the Volunteer Recognition Program.

2009 Governor's Volunteer Award Recipients Honored



Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, Capt. Charles Stiles with First Lady Jane Beshear and nominator Robert McCool.

Recipients of the 2009 Governor's Awards for Outstanding Volunteer Service were honored at a ceremony at the Governor's Mansion on Wednesday, June 9 in Frankfort. The awards were presented by First Lady Jane Beshear, WKTY-TV news anchor Amber Philpott and Cabinet for Health and Family Services Secretary Janie Miller.

The traveling awards for the 2009 Make A Difference Day food drive competition winners were also presented, along with two awards for support of this year's Build-A-Bed project.

Read the press release First Lady honors Kentucky's exemplary volunteers (June 9, 2010), <http://tinyurl.com/gva-release>.

Check out the ceremony and reception photos on the KCCVS Flickr site, <http://tinyurl.com/gva-flickr>.

Congratulations again to the award recipients. We also want to thank everyone who took the time to write a nomination, and thank you to everyone who volunteers!

AmeriCorps Program Spotlight: A-Team

By Shannon Bailes, A-Team program director

The A-Team is an AmeriCorps program which serves low achieving students at the middle and high school level. The A-Team is comprised of 14 AmeriCorps members who serve students in Barren, Crittenden, Hancock and Pulaski Counties. Members tutor targeted students in reading and math using curriculums already in place at each school. Members are also mentors as they are encouraged to develop relationships with these students. These types of relationships enable a student to gain confidence which is the first step in achieving the goals before them. Members at the high school level also assist students with ACT preparation and college preparedness. This comes with assisting the

student with the ACT pre-test and helping students to “wade through” information and requirements for college attendance.



A-Team members Telvis Emerson, Tyler Mullins and Sarah King on Read Across America Day.

While all the data is not yet available, there are already indicators that this year has been a great success for the students served. Not only are grades improved, but attitudes are changed. The Director of Programs for the Pulaski County School System states in an article from the October 2009 Kentucky Teacher that "This collaborative partnership between AmeriCorps and the Pulaski County school district is one of the best uses of funding for positive student outcomes." Members and staff alike, work tirelessly to see improved outcomes for our students.

Tutoring is the main aspect of the A-Team, but this year members of the A-Team have served AmeriCorps well through many service projects.

To name a few projects: Make A Difference Day Food Drive, Read Across America Day And Build-A-Bed. To date, A-Team members have recruited 160 volunteers who served 1,040 hours alongside them during community service projects. Sarah King, Telvis Emerson and Tyler Mullins, A-Team members serving at Southwestern High School, motivated the students to donate more food than any other school. Jerri Clark, the A-Team member at Barren County Middle School, held disaster certification class for students who were interested. The class began with about 10 students. Four students completed the coursework. This class will be repeated for students again next year. During Read Across America Week, high school students read to elementary students and shared their thoughts in education. Chris Stayton, a member serving at Central High School in Pulaski County was instrumental in securing a match donation with 84 Lumber for the Build-A-Bed project.



Students at Barren County Middle School participated in a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training organized by A-Team member Jerri Clark.

We are very proud that every member who began service with the A-Team in September will complete their service. When their service is complete, they will have collectively served more than 23,000 hours. The fact that they began service with middle and high school students and saw it through all the way to completion deserves high marks.

Middle and high school students are often “forgotten” when it comes to individual tutoring. We have learned that it is never too late to make a difference in a student’s life. It is our hope that members will continue to make an impact on middle and high school students in the coming year.

2010-11 Volunteer Insurance Program Forms Released



Information and forms for the 2010-11 Volunteer Insurance Program are now available to download on the KCCVS website, <http://chfs.ky.gov/dfrcvs/kccvs/insurance>. Due to rising costs to the KCCVS for insurance policies, rates for work release/court referral insurance have increased for the first time in more than five years. Make sure your organization has the updated forms and information.

The Kentucky Volunteer Insurance Program is a service of the KCCVS. Underwritten through the Corporate Insurance Management Association, three different types of insurance are offered: court referral, work release and volunteer. Coverage runs from July 1 to June 30, annually. Although policies may be purchased at any time during the coverage period, the premium will not be pro-rated for coverage of shorter duration.

If you have questions about the Volunteer Insurance Program, please contact Marzelle Wurtsmith at (800) 239-7404.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.”

- Margaret Mead

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